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and the
TOMB OF THE GODS
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and the TOMB OF THE GODS

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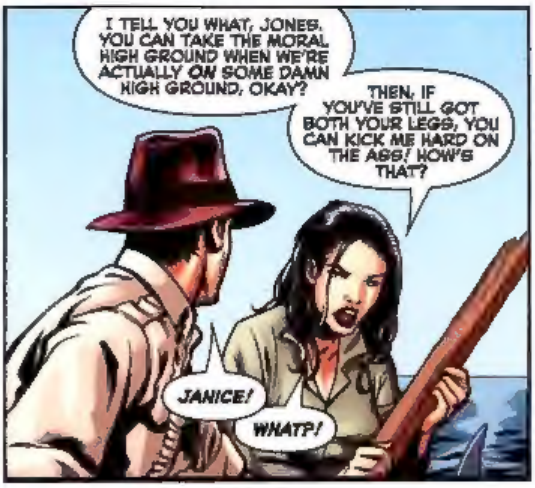
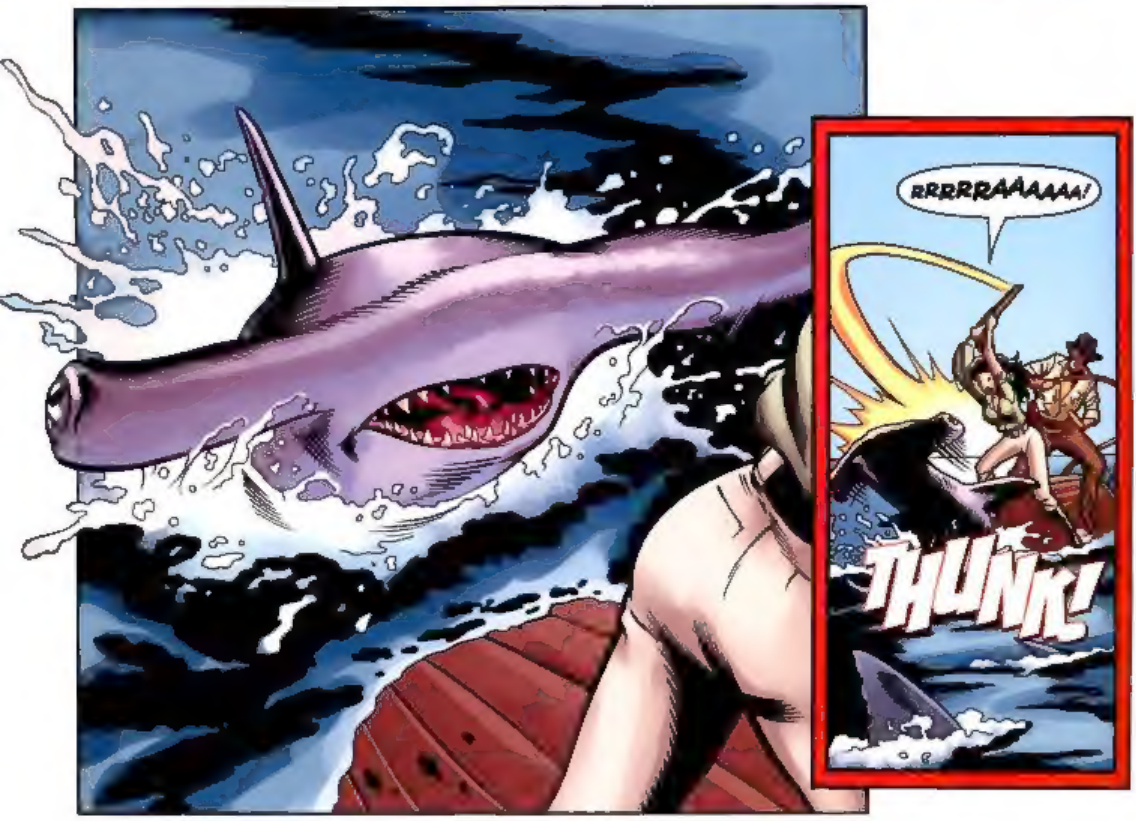
PACIFIC OCEAN.
NORTH OF JAPAN.
WELL...
I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS.

WE GET OUT OF THIS AND EVERY MEAL'S GOING TO BE SHARK FIN SOUP FROM NOW ON.
I'M GOING TO BE A ONE-WOMAN SEAFOOD GENOCIDE, I SWEAR.

ALL THAT MONEY THE NAZIS GAVE YOU FOR MELLBERG'S THIRD OF THE KEY? THAT'LL PAY A FEW RESTAURANT BILLS.
YOU SIGN A CONTRACT FOR THAT, JANICE? 'CAUSE YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.


I TELL YOU WHAT, JONES. YOU CAN TAKE THE MORAL HIGH GROUND WHEN WE'RE ACTUALLY ON SOME DAMN HIGH GROUND, OKAY?
THEN, IF YOU'VE STILL GOT BOTH YOUR LEGS, YOU CAN KICK ME HARD ON THE ASS! HOW'S THAT?
JANICE!
WHAT?!


RRRRAAAAAA!
THUNK!

YOU GOT ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME, PROFESSOR?
I'D ADVISE YOU TO PICK YOUR WORDS REAL CAREFUL.
TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF.
THE STRANGEST THING...I COULD'VE SWORN YOU JUST SAID...
C'MON! C'MON!
AND NOW HE'S SHOUTING AT ME...
YOU ACADEMICS HAVE REALLY GOT TO GET OUT MORE. MEET MORE WOMEN.
JUST HOPE THIS ISN'T WATERLOGGED AND WILL STILL LIGHT...YES.
SO, THE HUNDRED SHARKS AND THE OPEN OCEAN AREN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU? YOU WANT TO SET FIRE TO US TOO? THAT'S BRILLIANT.
YOU GOT TROUBLES AT HOME OR SOMETHING, JONES?

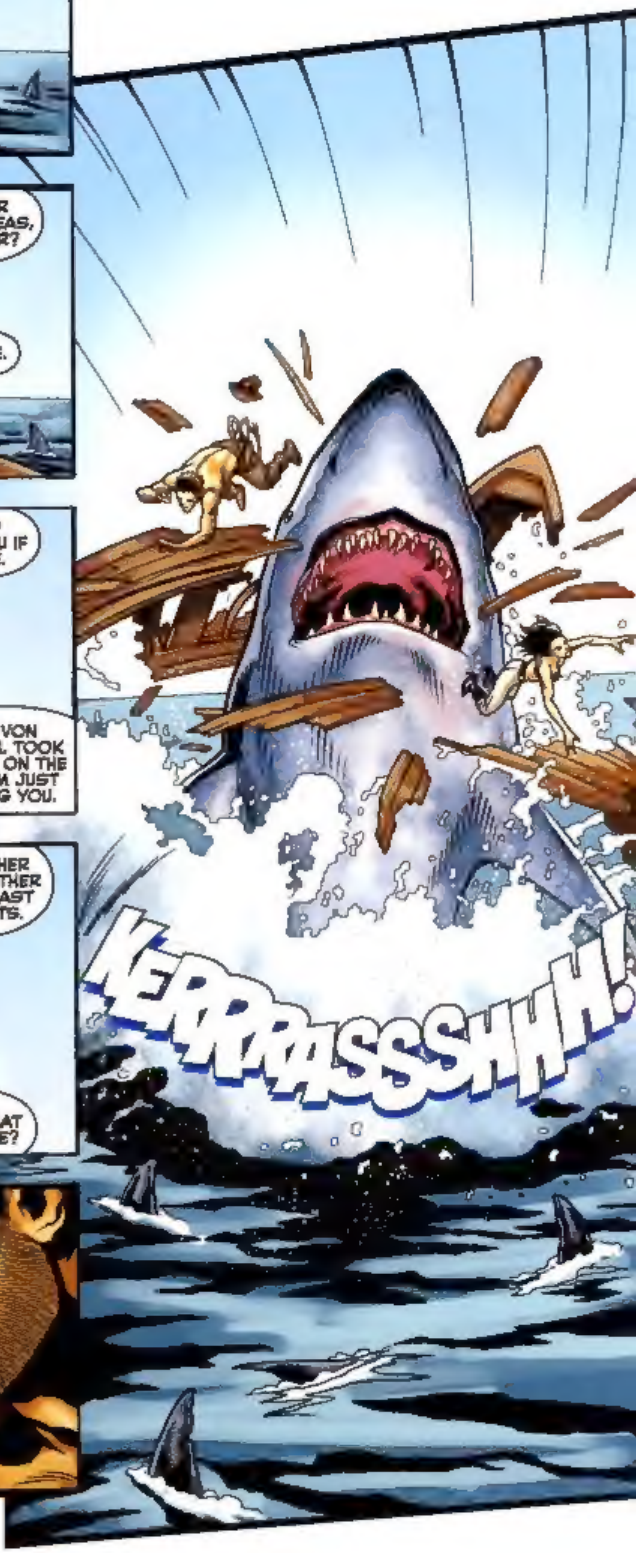
IF WE START A FIRE THERE'LL BE SMOKE. IF ANY PLANES OR SHIPS ARE IN THE AREA THEY'LL SEE THE SMOKE AND COME RESCUE US.
IT'S THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE, JANICE.
NOW, DO AS I SAY AND GIVE... ME...YOUR... SHIRT.
Rlllllllp!
THWACK!
BIG FIN...
REALLY BIG FIN.
GREAT WHITE-SIZED FIN.
UH...
C'MON, JONES, YOU GONNA LIGHT THIS THING OR NOT?

FIRE'S GOING OUT.
YEP.
ANY OTHER BRILLIANT IDEAS, PROFESSOR?
NOPE.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D GO LIKE THIS.
I COULD SHOOT YOU IF YOU LIKE.
YOU'VE HAD A GUN ALL THIS TIME?
NAH. VON HASSELL TOOK IT BACK ON THE SHIP. I'M JUST KIDDING YOU.

AIN'T YOU THE REGULAR JACK BENNY?
GO OUT WITH A LAUGH, THAT'S WHAT I SAY.
THERE'RE OTHER THINGS I'D RATHER DO WITH MY LAST FEW MOMENTS.
OH YEAH? AND WHAT MIGHT THEY BE?

C'MERE AND I'LL SHOW YOU...
...PROFESSOR.


KERRRRASSSHHH!

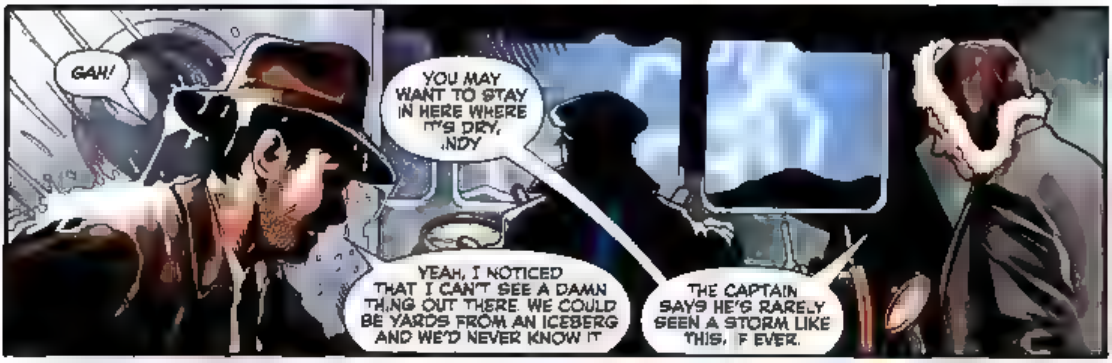
JANICE!
YOU OKAY?
JANICE!
I'M HERE.
INDY...
I KNOW, HONEY.
STAY BEHIND ME.

BOOOM!
AHHHHH!

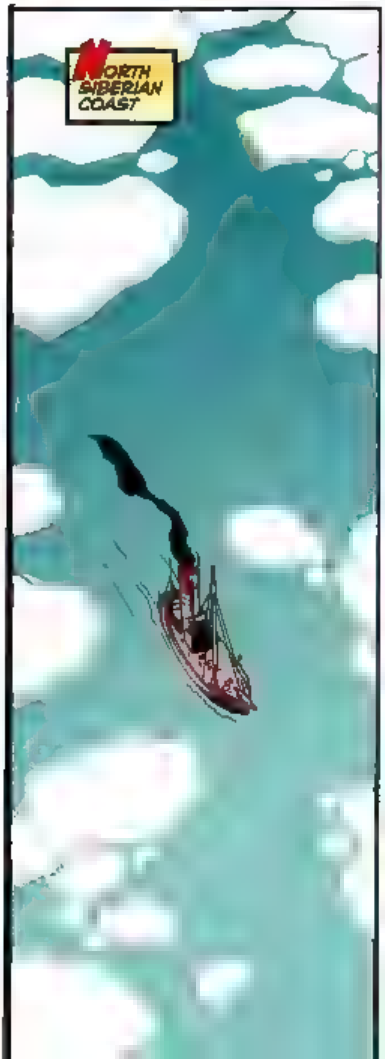
UH...NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING ABOUT THE RESCUE OR ANYTHING, BUT...
...WHO IS THAT?
AND WHY'S HE WEARING THAT HAT?
HE MAY NOT BE THE BEST AT WORKING OUT THE RIGHT OUTFITS FOR THE CLIMATE HE'S IN, BUT...
"THAT IS MARCUS BRODY OF MARSHALL COLLEGE.
"HE'S MY FRIEND."
I COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU LEAVE THE WAY YOU DID, AND I BECAME CONVINCED THAT YOU MIGHT NEED HELP, SO I HIRED THIS WHALING SHIP TO FOLLOW YOU NORTH.
LUCKILY WE SAW THE SMOKE. WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED, INDY?
MARCUS...
THANK YOU.
OOF.
YOU'RE WELCOME.

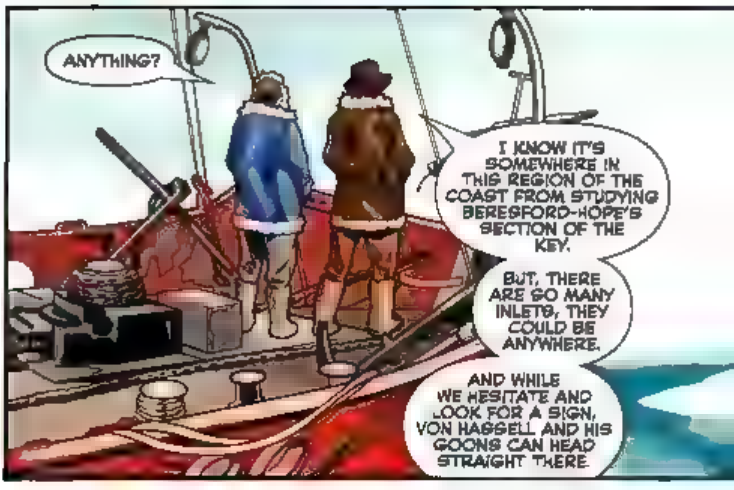
MARCUS, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING PERSONAL?
OF COURSE, INDY
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT HAT?
WE'RE HEADING NORTH UP THE BERING STRAIT IT'S ARCTIC WEATHER, I THOUGHT
WE'RE NOT THAT FAR NORTH YET
YES, BUT ONE NEVER KNOWS WHEN THE WEATHER MIGHT..
...CHANGE.
THEY'VE GOT THE KEY, MARCUS. ALL THREE PARTS OF IT SO THEY HAVE THE ENTIRE MAP.
THE NAZIS?
VON HASSELL. THE AHNENERBE. THEY HAVE ALEX TOO.
WELL.. THEY'VE GOT AT LEAST A DAY'S HEAD START ON US..
SO, WADDYA SAY BOYS? LET'S GET MOVING!
WHAT?

JONES, YOU SONOFABITCH!
YOU MAKE A MOVE ON ME AND THEN YOU LOCK ME UPP! IS THAT HOW YOU TREAT A TERRIFIED SHARK ATTACK SURVIVORP!
I DIDN'T MAKE A MOVE ON HER, AND WAS HELPING THE NAZIS. AND THE SHARKS WERE ACTUALLY TERRIFIED OF HER. I SWEAR
HE DID MAKE A MOVE!!! AND HE GOT ME TO TAKE MY SHIRT OFF!!!
THERE WAS A GOOD REASON FOR THAT
OH, I'M SURE
Alaska
"THERE USUALLY IS."
KERRRRRRAAKKK!!!


GAH!
YOU MAY WANT TO STAY IN HERE WHERE IT'S DRY, INDY
YEAH, I NOTICED THAT I CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING OUT THERE. WE COULD BE YARDS FROM AN ICEBERG AND WE'D NEVER KNOW IT
THE CAPTAIN SAYS HE'S RARELY SEEN A STORM LIKE THIS, IF EVER.

ONE COULD ALMOST BE FORGIVEN FOR FEELING THAT SOMETHING WANTS US TO TURN BACK


NORTH SIBERIAN COAST


ANYTHING?
I KNOW IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS REGION OF THE COAST FROM STUDYING BERESFORD-HOPE'S SECTION OF THE KEY.
BUT, THERE ARE SO MANY INLETS, THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE.
AND WHILE WE HESITATE AND LOOK FOR A SIGN, VON HASSELL AND HIS GOONS CAN HEAD STRAIGHT THERE.

IT'S HOPELESS, MARCUS.

I SEE YOU'VE GOT A MICHELIN-STAR CHEF HIDDEN ONBOARD, PROFESSOR. NICE WORK.
GIVE H.M MY COMPLIMENTS, YEAH? I'D DO IT MYSELF BUT I'M NOT SURE I'LL SURVIVE THE SECOND MOUTHFUL.
IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING UP HERE THAT'S HOT, JANICE, SO JUST EAT IT, WILLYA?
JESUS. YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
OOH, AREN'T WE THE CRANKY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVENTURER THIS MORNING
WHAT'S UP? CARE TO SHARE?
VON HASSELL'S GOT ALL THREE PARTS OF THE KEY HE HAS ALEX. HE HAS THE MAP. HE CAN HEAD STRAIGHT THERE AND OPEN "IT," WHATEVER "IT" IS.
MEANWHILE, WE'RE STUCK ON TOP OF THE WORLD PLAYING POLAR BEAR SAFARI AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I TELL YOU WHAT WHY DON'T YOU LET ME OUTTA THIS CELL, AND I'LL HELP YOU.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT THAT DISSIMILAR, YOU AND I. WE'RE BOTH ALL ABOUT THE TREASURE. WE MAKE A PRETTY GOOD TEAM.
YOU, JANICE, ARE ALL ABOUT THE *MONEY*. AND PEOPLE LIKE THAT JUST CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
WE'RE *NOTHING* ALIKE.
I AM *NOT* ALL ABOUT THE TREASURE. I'M AN ACADEMIC. I STUDY THESE THINGS.

YOU TELL YOURSELF THAT, SURE, BUT IF IT WERE ALL ABOUT THE STUDY FOR YOU, YOU'D NEVER LEAVE THE CLASSROOM.
NO, YOU RUN AROUND THE GLOBE PUTTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS AT RISK LOOKING FOR SHINY THINGS. ITEMS OF GLORY. ITEMS THAT GLORIFY.
I MAY LOOK FOR THE CHECK, BUT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A DIFFERENT KIND OF PAYOUT.
OKAY, JANICE, YOU WIN. THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO RUN UP HERE. AND I CAN'T SEE LIFE WITH THE INUITS APPEALING TO A HIGH-SOCIETY GAL LIKE YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS. YOU NOW HAVE FREE REIGN OF THE SHIP.
NICE CHOICE, PROF.
NOW, HOW'S ABOUT I PAY YOU BACK FOR THE FAVOR?
JIM, JANICE.
THERE'S NO NEED, REALLY...
BESIDES, IT'S KINDA COLD N HERE. Y'KNOW?
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.
I'M GRATEFUL, BUT NOT THAT GRATEFUL.
BUT, I DO HAVE SOMETHING EXCITING TO SHOW YOU.

I'M A FORTUNE HUNTER, RIGHT? SO, DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I'M GOING TO STUDY AN ANCIENT ARTIFACT AND NOT MAKE A COPY OF THE TREASURE MAP?!
I HID IT WHERE I FIGURED VON HASSEL WOULDN'T LOOK. IT'S A LITTLE WATER-STAINED BUT IT'S STILL READABLE
ONLY THING IS, THIS IS FROM MELLBERG AND O'BRIEN'S SECTIONS. SO IT'S MISSING THE FINAL THIRD. I DIDN'T HAVE LONG ENOUGH WITH BERESFORD-HOPE'S PIECE TO MAKE A COPY
I DID.
WADDYA KNOW, JANICE?
MAYBE WE'RE NOT THAT DIFFERENT AFTER ALL.
WE'VE MADE LAND EARLIER THAN THE MAP SAYS TO.
THE ROUTE SOUTH SEEMS MORE DIRECT THIS WAY, SO MAYBE WE CAN CATCH THEM OR EVEN OVERTAKE THEM.
UMM... I HATE TO SOUND OVERLY CAUTIOUS, BUT...
...THERE MUST BE A REASON THE MAP AVOIDS THIS PARTICULAR AREA.
YEP...
...IT'S PROBABLY DANGEROUS.
HIGHLY DANGEROUS.
OH DEAR

HAHHH!
HAHHH!
HIIIAAAAIIIIEEEE!
THE ICE BRIDGE, INDY...
DAMMIT, MARCUS, STOP SCREAMING IN MY EAR!
THAT MAP'S AT LEAST THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. THE LANDSCAPE WILL HAVE CHANGED.
MAYBE THIS BRIDGE DIDN'T EXIST BACK THEN, SO THIS CHASM WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPASSABLE.
I REALIZE THAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU..
...THE ICE BRIDGE IS COLLAPSING!
COME ON!
HAAAAAAHHHHH!

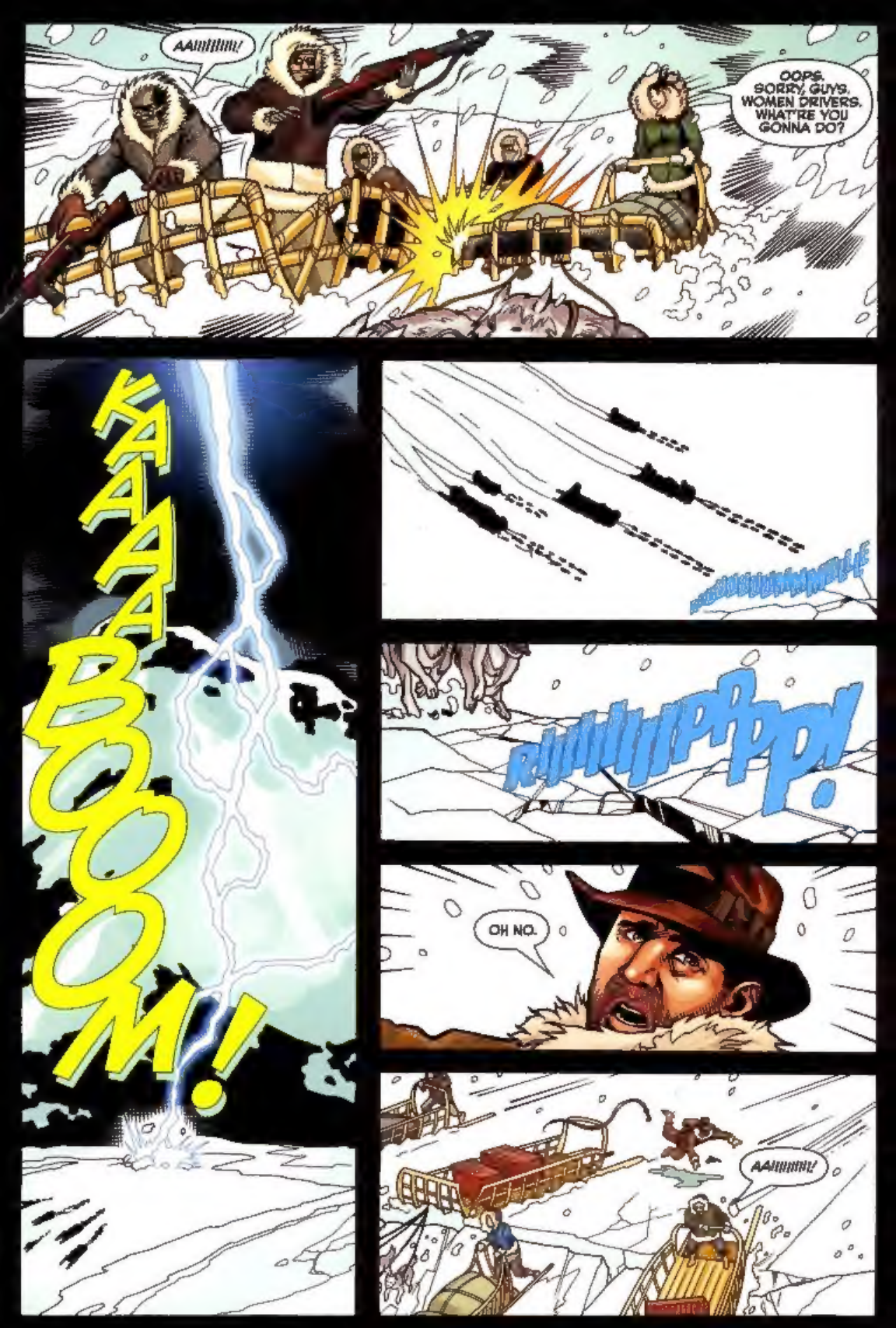
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE.
REMIND ME TO GIVE YOU A PAY RAISE WHEN WE GET BACK HOME, INDY. YOU DESERVE IT
WELL. THERE'S THE MOUNTAINS FROM THE MAP.
AND THE REQUISITE STORM AWAITS US, I SEE.
MELLBERG SAID THAT THE KEY WAS *THE BEGINNING AND THE END.*
YES. AND THIS CERTAINLY LOOKS THE PLACE FOR IT.
NO SIGN OF VON HASSELL'S GROUP, THOUGH.

UH, INDY.
YEAH?
YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK TO YOUR RIGHT
UH...
OKAY... THINKING... THINKING...
TAKE THE REINS, MARCUS. GET US IN CLOSER.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
SOMETHING THE COLLEGE WOULDN'T APPROVE OF.

DR. VON HASSELL!
WHAT NOW?
IT'S JON--
AGGGGGGHHHH...
AAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I COULD BE WRONG, OLD BOY, BUT I THINK HE SAID...
...IT'S JONES.

BRATTA-
BRATTA-
BRATTA!
BOOM!

GET OFF ME, YOU FOOL!
ALEX! JUMP ACROSS TO THE OTHER SLED!
BRATTA-BRATTA-BRATTA!
WHOA!
THWIP!
<YOU HAVE HIM! FIRE! FIRE!>


AA!!!!!!!!!!!
OOPS. SORRY, GUYS. WOMEN DRIVERS. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
KA-BOOM!
RRRR

AH...
AH...
AHHHH...
TO BE CONCLUDED!

DISCOVER DARK HORSE HORSEPOWER

DECEMBER 2009

"We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far."

H. P. Lovecraft
"The Call of Cthulhu"

"Eastbound and down, loaded up and truckin'
A' we gonna do what they say can't be done
We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there
I'm eastbound just watch ol' Bandit run."

Jerry Reed
***Smokey and the Bandit* theme song**

SOMEWHERE OUT THERE ON THE LONESOME highways lies a forgotten two-lane blacktop where small towns fade into oblivion and just over the horizon's edge, you can hear the sound of the world's end. It is here that Jim Kowalski rides his diesel rig into the night. He has seen the darkness that would chill men's hearts. He knows of the things mortal men need never know. And if that wasn't bad enough he's got killer heartburn from a half-eaten chili dog. He's been driving eighteen hours straight and the thing from beyond this universe he's hauling in his trailer won't stop babbling in unknown tongues. Yes, it was going to be a long night . . .

Howdy, Travelers. Let us introduce ourselves: We are the Fillbach Brothers. You may know us from our extensive work on *The Clone Wars* comic books, or from our epic sci-fi graphic novel, *Maxwell Strangewell*. "Why am I reading this today?" you may be asking yourself. Well, we'll tell you why. Dark Horse asked us to throw down a few words about our new graphic novel, *Roadkill: A Jim Kowalski Adventure*. And who would turn down a request from the Dark Horse? Surely not a couple of cartoon cowboys like us.

Where do we begin to describe our tale of humor-horror? You don't have to answer, that was a rhetorical question. We guess we begin at the beginning . . . But wait, what fun would that be for you? We don't want to close the barn door after the cows have fled. No. We want to entice you. Pique your curiosity. So, here we go; prepare to have your enticed curiosity piqued . . .

A genetic mutation being served as roadkill burgers turning a town's population into zombie cannibals! A paranormal trucker! A doomsday cult! A half-crazed country musician! Merlin the magician! A secret organization protecting mankind from certain doom! Violence! Explosions! Creepy children! What more could you ask for from a comic book? How about a talking dog named Geech? Yep, it's got that, too. But did we mention a talking crystal skull GPS? "How can this book get any better?" you may be asking yourself right about now . . . Well, you'll just have to read the book yourself to find that one out, friendo.

Fast, funny, gory, and goofy. If anything we've written here sounds good to you then sit down, grab a cold one (soda or beer, whatever your politics are), and enjoy. But the next time you find yourself at a roadside diner, in the middle of the night, whose sign proudly proclaims: EAT 24 HOURS, you just might think twice about ordering that cheeseburger. Jim would advise you on that decision. *Roadkill: A Jim Kowalski Adventure* . . . read it if you dare! Seriously, read it. We dare you!

–The Fillbach Brothers
fillbachbros.com

DARK HORSE HEROES

Manga translator **Kumar Sivasubramanian** finds himself becoming less interesting as he gets older . . . he's said goodbye to playing in metal bands and to his tank full of goldfish named after *Robotech* characters. But he still works on his aikido . . . sometimes . . . and he still listens to metal . . . (That's interesting!)

The founder and president of Mile High Comics, Inc., **Chuck Rozanski**, doesn't spend all his time immersed in the comics biz. A self-proclaimed "organic hippie gourmand," he runs a certified organic vegetable farm and owns over one hundred sixty farm fowl—it's no surprise one of his personal heroes is Uncle Scrooge!

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